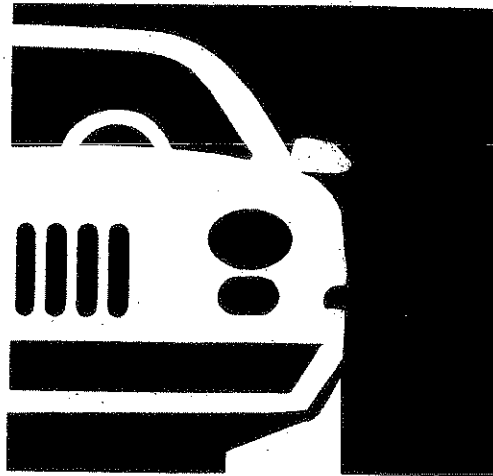




# **How To Prepare For Your Driver's Test**



## Basic Vehicle Control Skills Test

Your basic control skills test may be performed off-street, before your road test. It will consist of two exercises.

- Reverse Two- point Turnabout
- Right-side Parallel Park

With a parent/guardian or friend, who is properly licensed and over the age of 21, practice these exercises in a safe area, such as a parking lot or residential area until you can correctly complete them. Try practicing the exercises in a variety of vehicles and locations. These exercises are shown on the following page.

### Instructions

The examiner will give you detailed instruction for completing the test exercises and you will be given the opportunity to ask questions.

### Scoring

**Turn Signals** – When performing an exercise you must use the correct turn signal when turning or backing also to enter/exit an area. Each time you fail to use or improperly use your turn signal it will count as an error. If your turn signal cancels automatically make sure to reactivate it when necessary.

**Head/Traffic Check(s)** – When performing an exercise it is important to check traffic prior to entering or exiting a roadway. You must make sure that it is safe to perform the exercise and that the road way is clear in both directions before entering back into traffic or leaving the exercise area. Points will be deducted if you do not use head/traffic checks during all portions of the driving test.

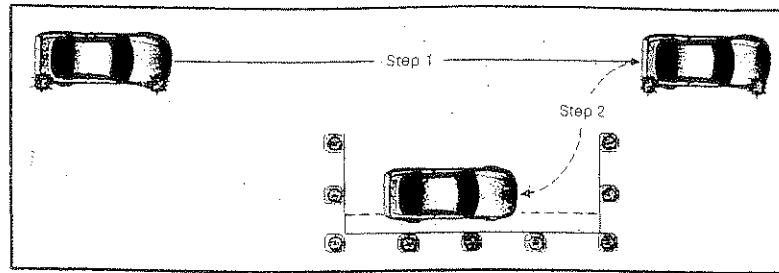
### Exercises

**Reverse Two-point Turnabout** – This exercise demonstrates your ability to execute a reverse two-point turnabout. Basic skills needed for this exercise consist of backing skills, visual skills, and judgment of space, use of mirrors and turn signals, steering, braking and acceleration control. (You will have 3 minutes to complete this exercise).

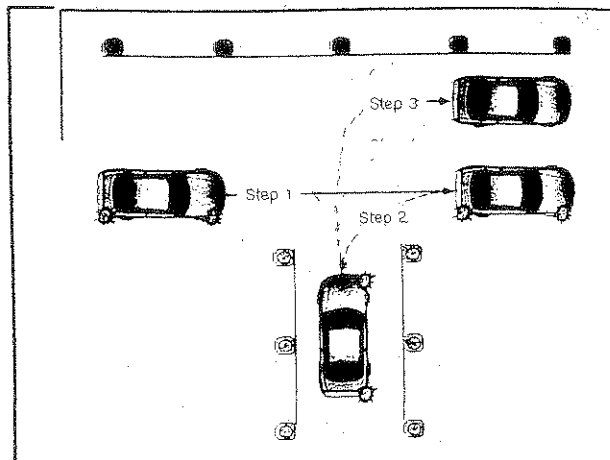
**Right-side Parallel Park** – This exercise demonstrates your ability to parallel park a vehicle. This is an essential skill for parking. A parallel park is one of the best indicators that you have the basic skills necessary to safely operate a motor vehicle. Basic skills needed for the exercise consist of visual skills, judgment of space, use of mirrors and turn signals, steering, braking and acceleration control. (You will have 3 minutes to complete this exercise).

**Right-side Parallel Park** – You will be asked to park in a parallel parking space that is on your right side. You are to drive past the parking space and back into it. You must get the vehicle completely within the parking space. You must bring the vehicle within 12 inches of the curb.

This is an essential skill for parking. Parallel Park is one of the best indicators that demonstrates the basic skills necessary to safely operate a motor vehicle. Basic skills needed for the exercise consist of visual skills, judgment of space, use of mirrors and turn signals, steering, braking and acceleration control, ect.



**Reverse Two-point Turnabout** - During your road test you will be asked to drive past an area that represents a driveway or alley back to the right into the designated area until the front end of your vehicle clears the front set of cones and the vehicle is not in the roadway. You will then be asked to exit the area to the right. Basic skills needed for this exercise consist of visual skills, judgment of space, use of mirrors and turn signals, steering, braking and acceleration control, ect.



### Automatic Failures

- Accumulating 9 or more points.
- Exceed time limit.
- Moving Cone/Flag
- Jumping Curb

## Road Test

You will drive over a test route that may have a variety of traffic situations. **Your vehicle must have at least a ½ tank of gas.** Directions will be given to you so you will have plenty of time to do what the examiner has asked. You will not be asked to do any thing that is illegal or unsafe. At all times during the test, you must drive safe and responsibly. During the driving test, the examiner will be scoring you on specific driving maneuvers as well as on your general driving behavior.

## How You Will Be Tested

### Turns

- You have been asked to make a turn. As you approach the turn:
  - Check traffic in all directions, use the correct turn signal, brake smoothly and evenly and safely get into the correct lane needed for the turn.
- If you must stop before making the turn because of traffic, signals or signs:
  - Smoothly come to a complete stop without skidding behind the stop line, crosswalk, or stop sign. A safe gap when stopping behind another vehicle is to stop where you can see the rear tires of the vehicle ahead of you. Keep the front wheels aimed straight ahead.
- When ready to turn:
  - Check traffic in all directions. Keep both hands on the steering wheel during the turn. Maintain smooth even acceleration and yield to pedestrians and other traffic. Keep checking your mirror to make sure the vehicle does not hit anything on the inside of the turn. Do not move into oncoming traffic or drive over the curb. Keep the vehicle in the proper lane.
- After Turn
  - Make sure you finish completing the turn in the correct lane and that your turn signal has cancelled. Accelerate to the speed of traffic, use your turn signal, check your blind spots by looking over your shoulder (head check), check your mirrors and move into the right-most lane when it is safe to do so (if not already there).

## **Intersections**

- As you approach an intersection:
  - Check traffic thoroughly in all directions. Brake smoothly and evenly and maintain lane position
- When stopping at an intersection:
  - If necessary, come to a complete stop behind any stop signs, signals, sidewalks, or stop lines. If stopping behind another vehicle maintain a safe gap. You should be able to see the rear tires of the vehicle ahead of you.
- When driving through an intersection:
  - Check traffic thoroughly in all directions. Keep both hands on the wheel and slow down and yield to any pedestrians or traffic in the intersection. Do not change lanes while proceeding through the intersection.
- Once through the intersection:
  - Continue checking mirrors and traffic behind you. Accelerate smoothly. If there are multiple lanes of traffic, accelerate to the speed of traffic, use your turn signal, check your blind spots by looking over your shoulder (head check), check your mirrors and move into the right-most lane when it is safe to do so (If not already there).

## **Urban Area Driving**

- During this part of the test, you are expected to make regular traffic checks, check cross traffic and maintain a safe following distance. Your vehicle should be centered in the proper lane (right-most lane) and you should keep up with the flow of traffic, but not exceed the posted speed limit.

## **Lane Changes**

- During multiple lane portions of the test, you will be asked to conduct a lane change to the left and a lane change to the right. You should make necessary traffic checks first by looking in your mirrors and checking your blind spots by looking over your shoulder (head check). Make sure you use the correct turn signal and smoothly change lanes when it is safe to do so. Cancel your turn signal upon completion of the lane change and check traffic.

## **Curve**

- When approaching a curve:
  - Check traffic thoroughly in all directions. Before entering the curve, reduce your speed so further braking is not required in the curve. Keep vehicle in the lane. Continue checking traffic in all directions. Maintain a safe speed through the curve and follow posted warning signs.

## **Traffic Signs**

- During the road test you will be asked to identify a number of traffic signs. They can be located anywhere on the road test. If the examiner asks you what sign you just passed you should be able to tell the examiner.

## **General Driving**

- Use brakes properly:
  - Do not brake harshly. Brake smoothly using steady pressure. Come to a complete stop at traffic signs and signals.
- Proper Steering:
  - Keep both hands on the outside of the steering wheel at all times unless using other controls. Once you have completed using other controls return both hands to the steering wheel. All methods of steering are acceptable (i.e., hand-over hand and hand-to-hand) as long as both hands are on the outside of the wheel (no palming).
- Proper lane usage:
  - Do not put vehicle over curbs, sidewalks or lane markings. Complete a turn in the proper lane on a multiple lane road (vehicle should finish a left turn from the left-most lane, the one directly to the right of the center line). Finish the right in the right-most curb lane. Move to or remain in the right-most lane unless lane is blocked. Do not attempt lane changes at intersections.
- Regular traffic checks/head checks:

Check traffic and mirrors regularly. Check traffic and mirrors before, while in and after an intersection, turns or lane changes. Also watch for hazards by searching left and right at intersections, driveways, store entrances, railroad tracks or any other areas where traffic intersects.

- Scan and check traffic in high volume areas where pedestrians are expected to be present. Check traffic by looking over your shoulder (head check) when necessary (i.e. lane change, merging).
- Use turn signals when required. Activate turn signals at appropriate times. Do not signal too early or too late. Cancel turn signals upon completion of a turn or lane change.
- Stopping at stop line or crosswalk or gap:
  - When stopping at a stop sign or traffic signal do not stop over marked stop line, pedestrian crosswalk, sidewalk or other marker. Do not stop vehicle in the intersection. When stopping behind another vehicle make sure you can see the rear wheels of the vehicle in front of you.
  - If there is no stop line or crosswalk, stop before your vehicle enters the intersection.

## **Automatic Failures**

If any of the following errors occur during the road test you will be disqualified:

- If you score 20 or more points during public road test.
- If you do not use your safety belt.
- If you receive a traffic citation for a moving violation, disobey signs or signals, speed, roll through stops, or ignore traffic laws.
- If you do not yield to pedestrians or other roadway users.
- If you are involved in an avoidable crash or if your vehicle has a physical contact with other vehicles, objects or pedestrians.
- If you commit any unsafe act or if another driver is forced to take evasive actions in order to prevent a crash.
- If you put the vehicle over sidewalks or curbs unnecessarily.
- If the examiner has to take control of the vehicle.
- If you fail to wear your glasses.